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Beginning Modern Standard Arabic

ARAB 1003-1503 (3 Credits)

Jordan: Arabic Language (Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced)

This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Description

This three-week online course includes an introduction to Modern Standard Arabic: both colloquial spoken language and the written script. To become familiar with Arabic, students will learn grammatical rules, vocabulary, structure, and methods of forming sentences. These linguistic rules will be tied to local cultural norms to give students a broader understanding of everyday life in Jordan and Jordanian society as a whole. Thus, not only does the course aim to have students use Arabic to express themselves in daily life, but also to develop students' understanding of Arabic culture through different applications of the language.

Language Levels and Placement

Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation online.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Write the Arabic alphabet, numbers, and days of the week;
- Get directions to, and negotiate prices for, transport to local destinations;
- Shop and pay for items and order a meal at a restaurant;
- Understand and respond to demographic questions, such as those about nationality/marital status/occupation;
- Formally introduce others and use appropriate leave-taking expressions.

Course Requirements

Students are responsible for completing all required readings. Students should be prepared to discuss these in class. Readings enable students to challenge and engage lecturers and to generate questions for class discussions.

Required Readings:

Omar Othman, *Let's Read and Write Arabic*

K. Brustad, M. Al-Batal, and A. Al-Tonsi. (2011). *Al kitab fee ta allum al Arabiyya*, *Part One,* Units 1-5, (3rd edition).

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Course Schedule
This Arabic language course is designed to give equal weight to developing four skills: reading, writing, listening, and conversation. All of the skills will be covered in the Standard Arabic class, and dialect will be taught through the listening and the conversation class.

Week 1
This week, students will:

- Be introduced to different varieties of the Arabic language, including classical, standard, and colloquial Arabic;
- Learn basic daily dialogue to communicate.

By the end of this week, students will be able to:

- Greet and be greeted;
- Start recognizing the letters of the Arabic alphabet in different positions within words;
- Communicate on a day-to-day level (students will have essential vocabulary with words related to daily expressions, prepositions, numbers, and verbs).

Week 2
This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 1, Unit 1 and Unit 2*;
- Learn how to form nominal sentences, gender in nouns and adjectives, and *Alnisba*;
- Learn to write using the Arabic alphabet;
- Practice reading and writing;
- Learn lists of vocabulary and expressions related to health and daily life.
- Learn how to form short sentences and questions
- Have their midterm evaluation

By the end of this week, students will be able to:

- Give basic geographic directions
- Introduce themselves and others in Arabic;
- Understand plural forms and subject pronouns;
- Use some main verb conjugations, like *to want* and *to have*;
- Talk about their families and friends.

Week 3
This week, students will:

- Cover *Alkitaab 1, Unit 3 and 4*;
- Learn *alidaafa* and possessive pronoun rules;
- Learn how to conjugate the present tense and to negate sentences;
- Learn Arabic numbers in relation to counting, time, and shopping;
- Learn in a café, restaurant, and a grocery shop.
- Have their final evaluation.

By the end of this week, students will be able to:

- Form polite requests and conjugate some essential verbs;

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- Speak in more depth about food, drinks, body parts, and health-related terms;
- Express likes and dislikes;
- Talk about their hobbies;
- Learn how to fix an appointment with someone (applicable to the ISP project).

*At the end of the course, students will present their Final Arabic projects and have Arabic Final Exam.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of Assignments:
Timely completion of all Arabic assignments is expected. Late hand-ins will be penalized. In addition to this, students are required to attend class and will be graded on attendance and daily participation (absences must be cleared with the instructor ahead of time). Students are also expected to fully participate in all activities related to class themes.

Assessment:

Attendance and participation:	20%
Final project:	25%
Assignments:	25%
Exams:	30%

Grading Scale:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64%	F

Grading Criteria:
All grades assigned will take into account the students' special circumstances and challenges they face as foreign students. An "A" grade for an assignment entails superior (not just "very good") performance in terms of not only technical correctness, but also in structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logic of writing, and consistency.

In terms of Class Participation, an "A" grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening, and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of the students' participation will be monitored and taken into account.

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Expectations and Policies

- Show up prepared. Be on time. Have your Reading completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (those of classmates, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits, etc.). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process**.**

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